

# On the entropy in $\text{II}_1$ von Neumann algebras

O. BESSON

*Département de Mathématiques, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale, Lausanne,  
Switzerland*

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**Abstract.** Let  $\alpha$  be an automorphism of a finite von Neumann algebra and let  $H(\alpha)$  be its Connes–Størmer’s entropy. We show that  $H(\alpha) = 0$  if  $\alpha$  is the induced automorphism on the crossed product of a Lebesgue space by a pure point spectrum transformation. We also show that  $H$  is not continuous in  $\alpha$  and we compute  $H(\alpha)$  for some  $\alpha$ .

## 0. Introduction

Let  $M$  be a finite von Neumann algebra with separable pre-dual and with faithful normal normalized trace  $\tau$ , and let  $\theta$  be an automorphism of  $M$  preserving the trace  $\tau$ . In [4] Connes & Størmer have defined a notion of *entropy*  $H(\theta)$  of  $\theta$ . This notion extends the classical entropy of Kolmogorov in the sense that, if  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  is a probability space and  $T$  is an automorphism of this space with entropy  $h(T)$  and if we also denote by  $T$  the automorphism induced on the abelian algebra  $A = L^\infty(X, \mu)$ , then

$$H(T) = h(T).$$

However, the following important question is still open. Let  $M$  be the crossed product of  $A$  by  $T$  and  $\theta$  be the inner automorphism of  $M$  induced by  $T$ . Is it true that  $H(\theta) = h(T)$ ? Our main result is a partial answer (see theorem 1.9):

**THEOREM.** *If  $T$  is ergodic and has pure point spectrum, then  $H(\theta) = 0$ , so  $H(\theta) = h(T)$ .*

One of the ingredients of our proof is the following result (see proposition 1.7): endow the group  $\text{Aut } M$  of automorphisms of  $M$  with the topology of pointwise convergence in  $M_*$ .

**PROPOSITION.** *Let  $G$  be a compact subgroup of  $\text{Aut } M$ . Then, for all  $g \in G$ ,  $H(g) = 0$ .*

The compactness of  $G$  is easily seen to be essential.

In the second part of this paper we prove the following, which is a generalization of a result of Abramov (see theorem 2.1).

**PROPOSITION.** *Let  $R$  be the injective factor of type  $\text{II}_1$  and let  $\alpha : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Aut } R$  be a continuous homomorphism. Then*

$$H(\alpha_t) = |t|H(\alpha_1) \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

This proposition might lead one to believe that the entropy is continuous (as a map from  $\text{Aut } M$  to  $\overline{\mathbb{R}}_+$ ). Indeed, Connes has asked whether this is true for the norm topology on  $\text{Aut } M$ . The answer is that it is never continuous when  $M$  is of type  $\text{II}_1$  (see corollary 3.2).

**PROPOSITION.** *The map  $H : \text{Aut } M \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}}_+$  is not continuous for the norm topology on  $\text{Aut } M$ .*

This proposition and its proof remain true for the new notion of entropy introduced in [5].

As in the classical case, the notion of entropy is an invariant which is far from complete. At the end of this paper we give an example of an uncountable family  $(\theta_\lambda)_{\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+}$  of automorphisms of the factor  $R$  which have zero entropy, are all aperiodic [3, p. 293] (and hence are all outer conjugate [3, theorem 2]) but are not pairwise conjugate.

Throughout this paper we shall use the notation of [4] for entropy and relative entropy. If  $N$  is a finite-dimensional subalgebra of  $M$ , we denote by  $E_N$  the unique faithful normal conditional expectation of  $M$  on  $N$  which is  $\tau$ -preserving.

### 1. Entropy and compact groups

Let  $M$  be a type  $\text{II}_1$  von Neumann algebra with separable pre-dual and let  $\tau$  be a faithful normal trace on  $M$  with  $\tau(1) = 1$ .

**LEMMA 1.1.** *Let  $G$  be a topological group and  $\alpha : G \rightarrow \text{Aut } M$  be an action continuous for the topology of pointwise convergence in 2-norm on  $\text{Aut } M$  and such that  $\tau(\alpha_g(x)) = \tau(x)$  for all  $x \in M$ . Then, for all compact subsets  $K$  of  $M$  in the 2-norm topology, we have*

$$\sup_{x \in K} \|x - \alpha_g(x)\|_2 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{if } g \rightarrow e,$$

where  $e$  is the neutral element of  $G$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. For any  $x \in K$  let

$$B(x, \varepsilon) = \{y \in M : \|x - y\|_2 < \varepsilon\}.$$

Since  $K$  is compact, there exist  $x_1, \dots, x_m \in K$  such that

$$K \subset \bigcup_{i=1}^m B(x_i, \varepsilon).$$

By hypothesis on  $\alpha$ , there exists a neighbourhood  $W_i$  of  $e$  in  $G$  such that, for all  $g \in W_i$ ,

$$\|x_i - \alpha_g(x_i)\|_2 < \varepsilon.$$

For all  $x \in B(x_i, \varepsilon)$  we have:

$$\|x - \alpha_g(x)\|_2 \leq 2\|x - x_i\|_2 + \|x_i - \alpha_g(x_i)\|_2 < 3\varepsilon \quad \text{if } g \in W_i.$$

Let

$$W = \bigcap_{i=1}^m W_i.$$

We obtain

$$\|x - \alpha_g(x)\|_2 < 3\varepsilon$$

for all  $x \in K$  and all  $g \in W$ . □

**Remark 1.2.** When  $M$  is a  $\text{II}_1$  factor with separable pre-dual, the topology of pointwise convergence in 2-norm is equivalent to the  $p$ -topology, so to the  $u$ -topology [7, corollary 3.8] and to the pointwise strong convergence on  $\text{Aut } M$  [2, p. 541].

Let  $F$  be the set of all finite dimensional von Neumann subalgebras of  $M$ .

**LEMMA 1.3.** *Let  $N$  and  $P$  be in  $F$ , then  $H(N|P) = 0$  if and only if  $N \subset P$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $S_1$  be the set

$$S_1 = \{x = (x_i)_{i \in \mathbb{N}} : x_i \in M_+, \sum x_i = 1 \text{ and } x_i = 0 \text{ for almost all } i\}.$$

By definition,

$$H(N|P) = \sup_{x \in S_1} \sum_i \tau \eta E_P(x_i) - \tau \eta E_N(x_i),$$

where  $\eta$  is the function  $x \in [0, \infty] \rightarrow -x \log x \in \mathbb{R}$  (see [4]).

Assume that  $H(N|P) = 0$  and let  $x = (x_i) \in S_1$ ,  $x_i \in N$ . By Jensen's inequality, we have

$$\tau \eta E_P(x_i) \geq \tau \eta(x_i) \quad \text{for all } i$$

[4, p. 293], so

$$\sum_i \tau \eta E_P(x_i) - \tau \eta(x_i) \geq 0.$$

As  $H(N|P) = 0$ , we obtain

$$\sum_i \tau \eta E_P(x_i) - \tau \eta(x_i) = 0,$$

hence

$$\tau \eta E_P(x_i) = \tau \eta(x_i) \quad \text{for all } i.$$

Let  $B_i$  be the abelian von Neumann subalgebra of  $P$  generated by  $E_P(x_i)$  and 1. We have

$$E_{B_i} E_P(x_i) = E_P(x_i).$$

So

$$E_{B_i}(x_i) = E_P(x_i),$$

hence

$$\tau \eta E_{B_i}(x_i) = \tau \eta(x_i).$$

By [10, inequality 9.5', p. 84], we obtain  $x_i \in B_i$ , so  $x_i \in P$  for all  $i$  and  $N \subset P$ .

The converse implication is clear.  $\square$

PROPOSITION 1.4. *The map  $d : F \times F \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,*

$$d(N, P) = H(N|P) + H(P|N)$$

*is a distance on  $F$ .*

*Proof.* It is clear that  $d$  is positive and symmetric; the triangular inequality follows from [4, property G]; and, if  $d(N, P) = 0$ , then  $N = P$  by lemma 1.3.  $\square$

PROPOSITION 1.5. *Let  $K$  be a compact set in  $F$ . Then, for any sequence  $(N_j)_{j \in \mathbb{N}}$ ,  $N_j \in K$ , we have*

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} H(N_1, \dots, N_n) = 0.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. There exists an integer  $m > 0$  such that, for all  $n \geq m$ , there exists  $i < m$  with  $d(N_n, N_i) < \varepsilon$ ; so

$$H(N_1, \dots, N_n) - H(N_1, \dots, N_{n-1}) \leq H(N_n|N_i) < \varepsilon$$

[4, property F]. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} H(N_1, \dots, N_n) &= \frac{1}{n} \left[ \sum_{i=m}^{n-1} (H(N_1, \dots, N_{i+1}) - H(N_1, \dots, N_i)) + H(N_1, \dots, N_m) \right] \\ &\leq \frac{1}{n} [(n-m)\varepsilon + H(N_1, \dots, N_m)]. \end{aligned}$$

As  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary, we obtain the conclusion.  $\square$

Let  $G$  be a subgroup of  $\text{Aut } M$ , compact for the topology of pointwise convergence in 2-norm on  $\text{Aut } M$  and such that  $\tau(g(x)) = \tau(x)$  for all  $x \in M$  and all  $g \in G$ .

LEMMA 1.6. *For all  $N \in F$ , the closure in  $F$  of the set  $\{g^n(N) : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is compact.*

*Proof.* Let  $(n_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a sequence of positive integers. There exists a subsequence of  $(n_k)$ , still to be denoted by  $(n_k)$ , such that  $(g^{n_k})$  converges for the topology of uniform convergence in 2-norm on compact sets of  $M$  (lemma 1.1). Hence the sequence  $(g^{n_k}(N))$  converges in  $F$  by [4, theorem 1].  $\square$

The following proposition is an immediate consequence of proposition 1.5 and lemma 1.6.

PROPOSITION 1.7. *With the above assumptions we have  $H(g) = 0$  for all  $g \in G$ .*

Let  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  be a standard Borel space with  $\mu(X) = 1$  and let  $T$  be an ergodic automorphism of  $X$  preserving  $\mu$ . Let

$$R = L^\infty(X, \mu) \times_T \mathbb{Z}$$

be the hyperfinite  $\text{II}_1$  factor, the crossed product of  $X$  by  $T$ . Let  $A$  be the canonical image of  $L^\infty(X, \mu)$  in  $R$ ,  $E$  be the conditional expectation of  $R$  on  $A$ , and  $U$  be the unitary of  $R$  corresponding to the translation by 1 in  $\mathbb{Z}$ . Set

$$R_0 = \left\{ y \in R : y = \sum_{n \in J} a_n U^n, a_n \in A, J \subset \mathbb{Z}, J \text{ finite} \right\}.$$

For any  $f \in L^1(X, \mu)$  and any  $y \in R_0$ , the map  $\phi_{y,f}$  defined by

$$\phi_{y,f}(x) = \int_X E(y^*xy) f \, d\mu$$

is a  $\sigma$ -weakly continuous linear functional on  $R$ .

**PROPOSITION 1.8.** *The linear space generated by  $\phi_{y,f}$ ,  $y \in R_0$ ,  $f \in L^1(X, \mu)$  is dense in  $R_*$ .*

*Proof.* See [1, § 1.2]. □

**THEOREM 1.9.** *Suppose that  $T$  has pure point spectrum. Then  $H(\text{Ad } U) = 0$ , so  $H(\text{Ad } U) = h(T)$ .*

*Proof.* By [11, theorem 3.4, p. 68] we can suppose that  $X$  is a compact abelian group and  $T$  is a rotation on  $X$ ; i.e. there exists  $g \in X$  with  $T = T_g$ , where

$$T_g(h) = g \cdot h \quad \text{for all } h \in X.$$

As  $X$  is abelian, we have

$$T_g T_k = T_k T_g \quad \text{for all } k \in X.$$

Hence  $T_k$  extends to an automorphism  $\theta_k$  of  $R$  with

$$\theta_k(a) = T_k(a) \quad \text{for all } a \in A$$

and

$$\theta_k(U) = U.$$

We shall show that the action of  $X$  on  $R$  given by  $k \in X \rightarrow \theta_k \in \text{Aut } R$  is continuous for the  $p$ -topology.

Let

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^r b_i U^{n_i} \in R_0$$

and

$$x = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} a_n U^n \in R, \quad a_n \in A.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} y^*xy &= \sum_{i,j,n} U^{-n_i} b_i^* a_n U^n b_j U^{n_j} \\ &= \sum_{i,j,n} T_g^{-n_i}(b_i^* a_n) T_g^{n-n_i}(b_j) U^{n-n_i+n_j}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$E(y^*xy) = \sum_{i,j} T_g^{-n_i}(b_i^*) T_g^{-n_j}(b_j) T_g^{n_i}(a_{n_i-n_j})$$

and

$$E(y^* \theta_k(x)y) = \sum_{i,j} T_g^{-n_i}(b_i^*) T_g^{-n_j}(b_j) T_g^{n_i}(T_k(a_{n_i-n_j})).$$

For  $f \in L^1(X, \mu)$  we obtain

$$\phi_{y,f}(x - \theta_k(x)) = \int_X \left[ \sum_{i,j} T_g^{-n_i}(b_i^*) T_g^{-n_i}(b_j) T_g^{-n_i}(a_{n_i-n_j} - T_k(a_{n_i-n_j})) \right] f d\mu.$$

Hence

$$|\phi_{y,f}(x - \theta_k(x))| \leq \sum_{i,j} \|b_i\| \|b_j\| \int_X |T_g^{-n_i}(a_{n_i-n_j} - T_k(a_{n_i-n_j}))| |f| d\mu$$

and

$$|\phi_{y,f}(x - \theta_k(x))| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{when } k \rightarrow e,$$

where  $e$  is the neutral element of  $X$ .

Clearly, the same result remains true for all finite linear combinations of  $\phi_{y,f}$ . So, by proposition 1.8, the action  $k \rightarrow \theta_k$  is continuous for the  $p$ -topology.

Hence, from remark 1.2 and proposition 1.7, we have that

$$H(\theta_k) = 0 \quad \text{for all } k \in X$$

and, as  $\theta_g = \text{Ad } U$ , we obtain the conclusion.  $\square$

## 2. Entropy of a flow

In this section we prove the following theorem:

**THEOREM 2.1.** *Let  $(\alpha_t)_{t \in \mathbb{R}}$  be a one-parameter group of automorphisms of the hyperfinite  $\text{II}_1$  factor, continuous for the  $u$ -topology. Then*

$$H(\alpha_t) = |t| H(\alpha_1) \quad \text{for all } t \in \mathbb{R}.$$

*Proof.* As  $H(\theta) = H(\theta^{-1})$ , for all  $\theta \in \text{Aut } R$ , we can suppose that  $t > 0$ . As in [8, p. 127], we shall prove that, for  $0 < s < t$ ,

$$H(\alpha_t) \leq (t/s) H(\alpha_s).$$

Let  $m$  be a positive integer and let  $N$  be a finite-dimensional von Neumann subalgebra of  $R$ . We denote by  $k(n)$  a positive integer such that

$$nt \leq k(n)s < (n+1)t$$

and by  $r(p)$  the integer such that

$$r(p) \cdot s/m \leq pt < (r(p) + 1)s/m.$$

For  $k = k(n)$  we see that

$$\begin{aligned} H(N, \alpha_t(N), \dots, \alpha_{nt}(N)) &\leq H(N, \alpha_{s/m}(N), \dots, \alpha_{(km+m-1)s/m}(N)) \\ &\quad + \sum_{p=1}^n H(\alpha_{pt}(N) | \alpha_{r(p)s/m}(N)). \end{aligned}$$

But

$$H(\alpha_{pt}(N) | \alpha_{r(p)s/m}(N)) = H(\alpha_\lambda(N) | N),$$

where

$$\lambda = pt - r(p)s/m \quad \text{and} \quad 0 \leq \lambda < s/m.$$

By remark 1.2 and lemma 1.1, we can suppose that  $(\alpha_t)$  is continuous for the topology of uniform convergence on compact sets of  $R$  in the 2-norm topology.

So, for any  $\varepsilon > 0$ , there exists  $m$  sufficiently large such that

$$H(\alpha_\lambda(N)|N) < \varepsilon$$

[4, theorem 1]. Hence

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{n} H(N, \alpha_t(N), \dots, \alpha_{nt}(N)) &\leq \frac{km + m - 1}{n} \frac{1}{km + m - 1} \\ &\quad \times H(N, \dots, \alpha_{(km+m-1)s/m}(N)) + \varepsilon. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, if  $n \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $k(n) \rightarrow \infty$  and  $k(n)/n \rightarrow t/s$ . Hence

$$H(N, \alpha_t) \leq \frac{t}{s} mH(N, \alpha_{s/m}) + \varepsilon.$$

Let  $N$  be such that

$$H(\alpha_t) \leq H(N, \alpha_t) + \varepsilon.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} H(\alpha_t) &\leq H(N, \alpha_t) + \varepsilon \leq \frac{t}{s} mH(N, \alpha_{s/m}) + 2\varepsilon \\ &\leq \frac{t}{s} mH(\alpha_{s/m}) + 2\varepsilon \\ &= \frac{t}{s} H(\alpha_s) + 2\varepsilon, \end{aligned}$$

because  $R$  is hyperfinite [4, remark 6]. Since  $\varepsilon$  is arbitrary, we obtain

$$H(\alpha_t) \leq \frac{t}{s} H(\alpha_s).$$

Let  $q$  be an integer such that  $0 < t/q < s$ . By the above statement we have

$$H(\alpha_s) \leq \frac{s}{t} qH(\alpha_{t/q}) = \frac{s}{t} H(\alpha_t).$$

Hence

$$H(\alpha_t) = \frac{t}{s} H(\alpha_s). \quad \square$$

### 3. Non-continuity of the entropy

Here we prove that the map

$$\theta \in \text{Aut } M \rightarrow H(\theta) \in \overline{\mathbb{R}_+}$$

is not norm continuous.

**PROPOSITION 3.1.** *The set of periodic unitaries of  $M$  is dense in the group of all unitaries of  $M$  in the norm topology.*

*Proof.* If  $n$  is a positive integer, write

$$\omega_{n,k} = \exp(2ik\pi/n)$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_{n,k} &= \{\omega \in \mathbb{C}: \omega = \exp(it) \text{ with } t \in \mathbb{R} \text{ and } 2ik\pi/n \leq t < 2i(k+1)\pi/n\} \\ &\quad (k = 0, \dots, n-1). \end{aligned}$$

Define a Borel function  $F_n$  on the unit circle  $S^1$  of  $\mathbb{C}$  by

$$F_n(z) = \omega_{n,k} \quad \text{if } z \in \Omega_{n,k}.$$

Then

$$|F_n(z) - z| \leq \varepsilon_n = |\omega_{n,1} - \omega_{n,0}|$$

for each  $z \in S^1$ . Obviously,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_n = 0.$$

Let  $u$  be a unitary in  $M$ . For each integer  $n$ , let

$$u_n = F_n(u).$$

Then  $u_n$  is a periodic unitary of  $M$  and

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \|u_n - u\| \leq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varepsilon_n = 0. \quad \square$$

**COROLLARY 3.2.** *If  $M$  is a type  $II_1$  von Neumann algebra, the map  $H : \text{Aut } M \rightarrow \overline{\mathbb{R}_+}$ ,  $\theta \mapsto H(\theta)$  is not norm continuous.*

*Proof.* Since  $M$  is of type  $II_1$ , it contains the hyperfinite  $II_1$  factor  $R$ . Let  $T$  and  $U$  be as defined just above proposition 1.8 and suppose that  $h(T) > 0$ . Then

$$H(\text{Ad } U) \geq h(T) > 0.$$

Hence there exists  $U$  unitary of  $M$  with  $H(\text{Ad } U) > 0$ . By proposition 3.1, there is a sequence  $(v_n)$  of periodic unitaries of  $M$  such that

$$\|U - v_n\| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

so

$$\|\text{Ad } U - \text{Ad } v_n\| \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

As  $H(\text{Ad } v_n) = 0$  for all  $n$ , we obtain the conclusion.  $\square$

#### 4. An uncountable family of automorphisms

In this section we give an uncountable family of aperiodic automorphisms with zero entropy.

Let  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$  be a standard Borel space with  $\mu(X) = 1$  and let  $T$  be an ergodic automorphism of  $X$  preserving  $\mu$ . Let  $R = L^\infty(X, \mu) \times_T \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $U$  and  $A$  be as defined just above proposition 1.8.

For  $t \in [0, 1[$ , let

$$\chi_t = \exp(2i\pi t) \in S^1 = \hat{\mathbb{Z}}$$

and let  $V_t$  be the unitary operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{Z}, L^2(X, \mu))$  defined by

$$V_t \xi(n) = \chi_t^{-n} \xi(n).$$

For any  $a \in A$  we have

$$V_t a V_t^* = a$$

and

$$V_t U^n V_t^* = \chi_t^{-n} U^n$$



for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$ , so the map

$$\theta_t(x) = V_t x V_t^*$$

is an automorphism of  $R$ . The action  $\theta$  of  $S^1$  on  $R$  so defined is called the dual action (see [9]). We note that  $\theta_t$  is not ergodic and that the system  $(R, \theta, \tau)$  is not asymptotically abelian in mean for any  $t$  [6, definition 1, p. 12], where  $\tau$  is the canonical trace on  $R$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.1.** *The dual action is continuous for the topology of pointwise strong convergence on  $\text{Aut } R$ .*

*Proof.* See [9, p. 257]. □

From this proposition, remark 1.2 and proposition 1.7 we deduce:

**COROLLARY 4.2.** *For all  $t \in [0, 1[$ ,  $H(\theta_t) = 0$ .*

We shall denote by  $P(T)$  the point spectrum of  $T$ .

**PROPOSITION 4.3.** *For  $t \in [0, 1[$ ,  $\theta_t$  is an inner automorphism of  $R$  if and only if  $\chi_t = \exp(2i\pi t) \in P(T)$ .*

*Proof.* Assume that  $\theta_t$  is inner, i.e. there is  $v$  unitary in  $R$  such that

$$\theta_t = \text{Ad } v.$$

As  $\theta_t(a) = a$  for all  $a \in A$ , we have  $v \in A$  because  $A$  is maximal abelian in  $R$ . Moreover,

$$vUv^* = \chi_t^{-1}U$$

so

$$T(v) = \chi_t v,$$

hence  $\chi_t \in P(T)$ .

Conversely, assume that  $\chi_t \in P(T)$  and let  $f \in L^2(X, \mu)$  be an eigenfunction corresponding to the eigenvalue  $\chi_t$ . We have

$$|f(T\omega)| = |\chi_t| |f(\omega)| = |f(\omega)|$$

for almost all  $\omega \in X$ . Since  $T$  is ergodic,  $|f| = k$  constant almost everywhere and  $f \in L^\infty(X, \mu)$ . Let  $v$  be the canonical image of  $k^{-1}f$  in  $A$ ;  $v$  is unitary and is an eigenfunction of  $T$ . So

$$T(v) = \chi_t v = UvU^*$$

and

$$vUv^* = \chi_t^{-1}U = \theta_t(U).$$

Since  $vav^* = a$  for all  $a \in A$ , we have

$$\theta_t = \text{Ad } v. \quad \square$$

**COROLLARY 4.4.** *If  $T$  is weak-mixing, then for any irrational number  $t \in [0, 1[$ ,  $\theta_t$  is aperiodic.*

*Proof.* If  $T$  is weak-mixing, then  $P(T) = \{1\}$ . If  $t$  is an irrational number in  $[0, 1[$ , then

$$\chi_t^n \neq 1$$

for any integer  $n \neq 0$ . Hence  $\theta_t^n$  is an outer automorphism for all  $n \neq 0$ ; that is,  $\theta_t$  is aperiodic.  $\square$

Now let  $t \in [0, 1[$  be a fixed irrational number and let  $S$  and  $T$  be ergodic automorphisms of  $X$  preserving the measure  $\mu$ . Let

$$R = L^\infty(X, \mu) \times_T \mathbb{Z} = L^\infty(X, \mu) \times_S \mathbb{Z}$$

and let  $U$  (resp.  $V$ ) be the unitary operator in  $R$  corresponding to  $T$  (resp.  $S$ ).

Let  $\theta$  be the dual action for  $T$  and  $\sigma$  be the dual action for  $S$ . Suppose that there is  $\psi \in \text{Aut } R$  such that

$$\sigma_t = \psi \theta_t \psi^{-1}.$$

For all  $a \in A$  we have

$$a = \sigma_t(a) = \psi \theta_t \psi^{-1}(a)$$

so  $\psi^{-1}(a) \in A$ , because  $t$  is irrational. Hence

$$\psi(A) = A.$$

Moreover,

$$\sigma_t(V) = \chi_t^{-1} V = \psi \theta_t \psi^{-1}(V).$$

Hence

$$\chi_t^{-1} \psi^{-1}(V) = \theta_t \psi^{-1}(V)$$

so

$$\theta_t(U^* \psi^{-1}(V)) = U^* \psi^{-1}(V)$$

and

$$U^* \psi^{-1}(V) = a \in A$$

because  $t$  is irrational. Hence

$$S(b) = VbV^* = \psi(U)\psi(a)b\psi(a)^*\psi(U)^* = \psi(U)b\psi(U)^*$$

so

$$S = \psi T \psi^{-1}.$$

Consequently, if  $\sigma_t$  and  $\theta_t$  are conjugate in  $R$ , then  $S$  and  $T$  are conjugate in  $A$ .

Conversely, assume that there is  $\psi \in \text{Aut } A$  such that  $S = \psi T \psi^{-1}$ . We shall still denote by  $\psi$  its canonical extension to  $R$  ( $\psi(U) = V$ ). We then have

$$\psi \theta_t \psi^{-1}(V) = \chi_t^{-1} V = \sigma_t(V)$$

and

$$\psi \theta_t \psi^{-1}(a) = a$$

for all  $a \in A$ . Hence

$$\sigma_t = \psi \theta_t \psi^{-1}.$$

We have proved the theorem:

**THEOREM 4.5.** *With the above notation,  $S$  and  $T$  are conjugate if and only if  $\sigma_t$  and  $\theta_t$  are conjugate for some irrational number  $t \in [0, 1[$ .*

**COROLLARY 4.6.** *There is an uncountable family of aperiodic automorphisms in the hyperfinite  $\text{II}_1$  factor with zero entropy.*

*Proof.* For  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$  let  $S_\lambda$  be the Bernoulli shift with entropy  $\lambda$  on a Lebesgue space  $(X, \mathcal{B}, \mu)$ . Let  $\theta^\lambda$  be the dual action for  $S^\lambda$  in  $R = L^\infty(X, \mu) \times_{S_\lambda} \mathbb{Z}$  and let  $t \in [0, 1[$  be an irrational number. For all  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+^*$ , the action  $\alpha_\lambda$  of  $\mathbb{Z}$  on  $R$  given by

$$\alpha_\lambda(n) = (\theta_t^\lambda)^n$$

is outer by corollary 4.4, and

$$H(\alpha_\lambda(1)) = 0$$

by corollary 4.2. Moreover, if  $\lambda \neq \lambda'$ , then  $S_\lambda$  and  $S_{\lambda'}$  are not conjugate because their entropies differ. Hence, by theorem 4.5,  $\alpha_\lambda$  and  $\alpha_{\lambda'}$  are not conjugate.  $\square$

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